Welfare Scheme for rural and Terrorism Affected women and Children

4280. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any welfare scheme for the rural and terrorism affected women and children in the country particularly in the States of Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Government is implementing the following schemes for the Welfare of Women and Children:

1. Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) which is a sub-scheme of IRDP.

2. Norwegien Agency for International Development (NORAD).

3. Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP).

4. Socio Economic Programme (SEP).

5. Condensed Courses of Education and Vocational Training Programme.

In so far as the welfare scheme for the rural and terrorism affected women and children in the country particularly in the States of Punjab and J & K is concened, the information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Legislation for equal rights to disabled persons

4281. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various organisations of disabled persons and non-Governmental organisations, at a symposium organised in New Delhi in recent past, have strongly appealed to Government to enact a comprehensive legislation to provide equal opportunities and rights to the disabled persons of country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take some action on these appeals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): (a) to (d) Disabled Rights Group, a non-political advocacy group for the rights of people with disabilities, organised a symposium on 12th March, 95 in the FICCI Auditorium, New Delhi to discuss the need to have a comprehensive legislation for the handicapped.

At the conclusion, the symposium adopted a resolution. The operative part of the resolution laid down, inter-alia, that the bill should be introduced in the current session of Parliament. It further made an appeal to all political parties to treat this as a non-political issue and appealed to the State Governments not to defer the bill or its implementation on financial grounds.

The Government of India have already prepared a draft Bill and circulated to all State Governments/UT Administrations and the concerned Central Ministries/Departments. The Government of India have held a meeting on 25.4.95 with the representatives of State Governments/UT Administrations to solicit their views on different issues of the legislation.

Requests for Inclusion in the List of SCs in Gujarat

4282. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some organisations have